In The Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~of managing communication between a plurality of components of a computer system~~, comprising the steps of:

creating a producer component including a data object and a component module, the component module including information identifying the data object and an object handler to interact with the data object;

registering the component module ~~at least a portion of the plurality of components~~ with an intermediary module, ~~wherein the intermediary module is coupled to each of the components~~;

providing from a ~~first one of the plurality of~~ consumer components to the intermediary module a request for ~~a~~ the data object;

correlating the requested data object with the component module which includes the requested data object using the identifying information in the component module ~~a second one of the components containing the requested data object, wherein the second component is registered~~;

forwarding the request to the component module which interacts with the data object through the object handler ~~second component~~; and

fulfilling the request by providing the requested data object to the ~~first~~ consumer component.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1~~3~~, wherein the ~~plurality of~~

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producer ~~components further includes~~ <u>is</u> a hybrid component which, under predetermined conditions, acts as a consumer component and which otherwise acts as a producer component.

5.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein all of the components reside on a single processor.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim <u>3</u>~~4~~, wherein the intermediary module receives a plurality of requests from the consumer component including at least one of a request to retrieve a value in the ~~a~~ data object from the producer component, a request to retrieve a value in a next data object of the producer component, a request to set a value in the data object of the producer component, a request to set a read-only value of the data object of the producer component and a request to store a value of the data object in a nonvolatile memory.

7.   (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the intermediary module performs the correlating step using one of a hash table, a database application and a binary tree.

8.   (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the single processor operates a switching device.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of de-registering the component module from the intermediary module ~~deleting from the register reference to a deleted component which has been decoupled from the intermediary module~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) An intermediary module for a software package for facilitating communication among a plurality of components of a computing system, comprising:

> <u>a component module including information identifying a first one of the components and an object handler to interact with a data object, the first one of the components including the data object;</u>

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a register configured to register the component module of at least a portion of the components; and

a dispatch component to route a request for a the data object received from a first second one of the components, the dispatch component correlating the requested data object to the component module including a second one of the components containing the requested data object, the correlation including the generation of a record including at least a portion of the identifying information included in the component module wherein the second component is included in the register.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The intermediary module according to claim 10 11, further comprising:

a configuration component including containing configuration parameters for the component module manageable entities; and

a utility for generating the component module manageable entities using the configuration component.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system for managing communications among a plurality of components of a computing system comprising:

a consumer component;

a plurality of producer components, each of the producer components including a data object and a component module, the component module including information identifying the data object and an object handler to interact with the data object; and

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an intermediary module receiving from the consumer component requests for data objects, wherein, upon receipt of a consumer component request, the intermediary module consults a register to identify ~~a registered one of the producer components~~ the component module which includes the data to identify ~~in which~~ the requested data object ~~is contained~~.

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein the system operates a switch.

17.   (Original) The system according to claim 14, wherein the intermediary module receives a plurality of requests from the consumer component including at least one of a request to retrieve a value in the a data object from the producer component, a request to retrieve a value in a next data object of the producer component, a request to set a value in the data object of the producer component, a request to set a read-only value of the data object of the producer component and a request to store a value of the data object in a nonvolatile memory.

18.   (Original) The system according to claim 14, further comprising a hybrid component which, under predetermined conditions, acts as a consumer component and which otherwise acts as a producer component.

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